**Objections to the National Mineral Policy**

2205. SHRI. C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers has approved the National Mineral Policy;

(b) if so, whether Chief Ministers of five mineral producing States of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Rajasthan do not concur with the policy;

(c) if so, what is the contention of the States and whether any amendments, based on the feed back from the States, is in the offing;

(d) if so, the details of the changes proposed and their impact on mineral deficient States in the country, particularly Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (e) The Chief Ministers of the State Governments of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Karnataka had raised concerns on dilution of powers of the State Governments in the National Mineral Policy, 2007. These issues were discussed with the Governments of chief mineral producing States and based on the resolution achieved with them, a draft National Mineral Policy is under consideration of the Government. The Group of Ministers has considered the National Mineral Policy.

**Cooperation with China**

2206. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry and the Ministry of Land and Resources of the Peoples Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2005 for cooperation in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits derived or significant achievements made so far therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) seeks to exchange information on mining investment, legislation and exploration; promote cooperation in research, policies and regulations, technical assistance, training programmes and joint ventures in third countries. As per the MoU, the concerned organisations of the two countries shall identify projects of mutual interest for technical assistance and collaboration.